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The following letter written by Mr. Wirt a short time before his death, will be found very interesting. It was written under these circumstances.—A young man who looked to the law as his profession, was induced by the high estimate he had formed of Mr. Wirt's character, to ask from him some advice as to the line of study, and course of mental discipline most proper to be pursued. Mr. Wirt responded thus:

BALTIMORE, Dec. 20, 1833.

My Dear Sir: Your letter dated "University of —, December 12," was received on yesterday morning—and although it finds me extremely busy in preparing for the Supreme Court of the United States, I am so much pleased with its spirit, that I cannot reconcile it with myself to let it pass unanswered. If I were ever so well qualified to advise you, to which I do not pretend, but little good could be done by a single letter, and I have not time for more.—Knowing nothing of the peculiarities of your mental character, I can give no advice adapted to your peculiar case. I am persuaded that education may be so directed by a sagacious and skilful teacher, as to prune and repress those faculties of the pupil which are prone to luxuriate, and to train and invigorate those which are disproportionately weak or slow; so as to create a just balance among the powers, and enable the mind to act with the highest effect of which it is capable. But it requires a previous acquaintance with the student, to ascertain the natural condition of his various powers, in order to know which requires the spur and which the rein. In some minds imagination overpowers and smother all the other faculties: in others, reason, like a sturdy oak, throws all the rest into a sickly shade. Some men have a morbid passion for the study of poetry—others, of mathematics, &c. &c. All this may be corrected by discipline, so far as it may be judicious to correct it. But the physician must understand the disease, and become acquainted with all the idiosyncracies of the patient, before he can prescribe. I have no advantage of this kind with regard to you; and to prescribe by conjecture, would require me to conjecture every possible case that may be yours, and to prescribe for each, which would call for a ponderous volume instead of a letter. I believe that in all sound minds the germ of all the faculties exists, and may, by skillful management, be wooed into expansion; but they exist naturally, in different degrees of health and strength, and as this matter is generally left to the impulses of nature in each individual, the healthiest and strongest germs get the start—give impulse and direction to the efforts of each mind—stamp its character and shape its destiny. As education, therefore, now stands among us, each man must be his own preceptor in this respect, and by turning his eyes upon himself, and describing the comparative action of his own powers, discover which of them requires most tone—which, if any, less. We must take care, however, not to make an erroneous estimate of the relative value of the faculties, and thus commit the sad mistake of cultivating the showy at the expense of the solid.—With these preliminary remarks, by way of explaining why I cannot be more particular in regard to your case, permit me instead of chalking out a course of study by furnishing you with lists of books and the order in which they should be read, (and no list of books and course of study would be equally proper for all minds,) to close this letter with a few general remarks.

If your spirit be as stout and pure as your letter indicates, you require little advice beyond that which you will find within the walls of your University. A brave and pure spirit is worth more than "half the battle," not only in preparing for life, but in all its conflicts. Take it for granted, that there is no excellence without great labor. No mere aspirations for eminence, however ardent, will do the business.—

Wishing, and sighing, and imagining, and dreaming of greatness, will never make you great. If you would get to the mountain's top on which the temple of fame stands, it will not do to stand still, looking, admiring, and wishing you were there. You must gird up your loins, and go to work with all the indomitable energy of Hannibal scaling the Alps. Laborious study, and diligent observation of the world, are both indispensable to the attainment of eminence. By the former, you must make yourself master of all that is known of science and letters; by the latter, you must know man, at large, and particular chummen. You must cultivate assiduously the habits of reading, thinking and observing. Understand your own language, grammatically, critically, thoroughly; learning its origin, or rather various origins, which you may learn from Johnson's or Webster's prefaces to their large dictionaries. Learn all that is delicate and beautiful, as well as strong, in the language, and master all its stores of opulence. You will find a rich mine of instruction in the splendid language of Burke. His diction is frequently magnificent; sometimes too gorgeous, I think, for a chaste and correct taste; but he will show you all the wealth of your language. You must, by ardent study and practice, acquire for yourself a mastery of the language, and be able both to speak and to write it, promptly, easily, elegantly, and with that variety of style which different subjects, different hearers, and different readers, are continually requiring. You must have such a command of it as to be able to adapt yourself, with intuitive quickness and ease, to every situation in which you may chance to be placed—and you will find no great difficulty in this, if you have the copia verborum, and a correct taste. With this study of the language you must take care to unite the habits already mentioned—the diligent observation, of all that is passing around you, and active, close, and useful thinking. If you have access to Franklin's works, read them carefully, particularly his third volume, and you will know what I mean by the habits of observing and thinking.—We cannot all be Franklin's; it is true; but, by imitating his mental habits and unwearied industry, we may reach an eminence we should never otherwise attain. Nor would he have been the Franklin he was, if he had permitted himself to be discouraged by the reflection that we cannot all be Newtons. It is our business to make the most of our own talents and opportunities, and instead of discouraging ourselves by comparisons and imaginary impossibilities, to believe all things possible, as indeed almost all things are, to a spirit bravely and firmly resolved. Franklin was a fine model of a practical man as contradistinguished from a visionary theorist, as men of genius are very apt to be. He was great in that greatest of all good qualities, sound, strong, common sense. A mere book-worm is a miserable driveller; and a mere genius, a thing of gossamer, fit only for the winds to sport with. Direct your intellectual efforts principally to the cultivation of the strong masculine qualities of the mind. Learn (I repeat it) to think—think deeply, comprehensively, powerfully—and learn the simple nervous language which is appropriate to that kind of thinking. Read the legal and political arguments of Chief Justice Marshall, and those of Alexander Hamilton, which are coming out. Read them, study them; and observe with what an omnipotent sweep of thought they range over the whole field of every subject they take in hand—and that with a scythe so ample, and so keen, that not a straw is left standing behind them. Brace yourself up to these great efforts. Strike for this giant character of mind, and leave prettiness and frivolity for triflers. There is nothing in your letter that suggests the necessity of this admonition; I make it merely with reference to that tendency to colorlessness which I have occasionally heard charged to Southern genius. It is perfectly consistent with these herculean habits of thinking, to be a laborious student, and to know all that books can teach. This extensive acquisition is necessary, not only to teach you how far science has advanced in every direction, and where the terra incognita begins, into which genius is to direct its future discoveries, but to teach you also the strength and the weakness of the human intellect—how far it is permitted us to go, and where the penetration of man is forced, by its own impotence and the nature of the subject, to give up the pursuit;—and when you have mastered all the past conquests of science you will understand what Socrates meant by saying, that he knew only enough to be sure that he knew nothing—nothing compared with that illimitable tract that lies beyond the reach of our faculties.—You must never be satisfied with the surface of things; probe them to the bottom, and let nothing go till you understand it as thoroughly as your powers will enable you. Seize the moment of excited curiosity on any subject to solve your doubts; for if you let it pass, the desire may never return, and you may remain in ignorance. The habits which I have been recommending are not merely for college, but for life. Franklin's habits of constant

and deep cogitation clung to him to his latest hour. From these habits now; learn all that may be learned at your University, and bring all your acquisitions and your habits to the study of the law, which you say is to be your profession;—and when you come to this study, come resolved to master it—not to play in its shallows, but to sound its depths. There is no knowing what a mind greatly and firmly resolved may achieve in this department of science, as well as every other. Resolve to be the first lawyer of your age, in the depth, extent, variety, and accuracy of your legal learning.—Move upon Livingston and Coke's and Plowden's Reports—master Fearn's on Continental Reminders and Executory Devises, till you can sport and play familiarly with its most subtle distinctions. Lay your foundation deep, and broad, and strong, and you will find the superstructure comparatively light work. It is not by shrinking from the difficult parts of the science, but by courting them, grappling with them, and overcoming them, that a man rises to professional greatness.—There is a deal of learning that is dry, dark, cold, revolting—but it is an old feudal castle, in perfect preservation, which the legal architect, who aspires to the first honors of his profession, will delight to explore, and learn all the uses to which its various parts used to be put; and he will the better understand, enjoy and relish the progressive improvements of the science in modern times. You must be a master in every branch of the science that belongs to your profession; the law of nature and of nations, the civil law, the law merchant, the maritime law, &c., the chart and outline of all which you will see in Blackstone's Commentaries. Thus covered with the panoply of professional learning, a master of the pleadings, practice and cases, and at the same time a great constitutional and philosophic lawyer, you must keep your eye, with the march of general science. Do you think this requiring too much? Look at Brougham, and see what man can do if well armed and well resolved. With a load of professional duties that would of themselves, have been appalling to the most of our countrymen, he stood nevertheless, at the head of his party in the House of Commons, and at the same time, set in motion and superintended various primary schools and various periodical works, the most instructive and useful that ever issued from the British press, to which he furnished, with his own pen, some of the most masterly contributions, and yet found time not only to keep pace with the progress of the arts and sciences, but to keep at the head of those whose peculiar and exclusive occupations those arts and sciences were.—There is a model of industry and usefulness worthy of all your emulation. You must, indeed, be a great lawyer, but it will not do to be a mere lawyer—more especially as you are very properly turning your mind, also, to the political service of your country, and to the study and practice of eloquence. You must, therefore, be a political lawyer and historian; thoroughly versed in the constitution, and laws of your country, and fully acquainted with all its statistics, and the history of all the leading measures which have distinguished the several administrations. You must study the debates in Congress, and observe what have been the actual effects upon the country of the various measures that have been the most strenuously contested in their origin. You must be a master of the science of political economy, and especially of financing, of which so few of our young countrymen know anything. The habit of observing all that is passing, and thinking closely and deeply upon them, demands pre-eminently an attention to the political course of your country. But it is time to close this letter. You ask for instructions adapted to improvement in eloquence. This is a subject for a treatise, not for a letter. Cicero, however, has summed up the whole art in a few words; it is "apte—distincte—ornate—dicere"—to speak to the purpose—to speak clearly and distinctly—to speak gracefully—to be able to speak to the purpose, you must understand your subject and all that belongs to it;—and then your thoughts and method must be clear in themselves and clearly and distinctly enunciated;—and lastly, your voice, style, delivery and gesture, must be graceful and delightfully impressive. In relation to this subject, I would strenuously advise you to two things: Compose much, and often, and carefully with reference to this same rule of "apte, distincte, ornate," and let your conversation have reference to the same objects. I do not mean that you should elaborate and formal in your ordinary conversation.—Let it be perfectly simple and natural, but always in good time, (to speak as the musician,) and well enunciated.

With regard to the style of eloquence that you shall adopt, that must depend very much on your own taste and genius. You are not disposed, I presume, to be an humble imitator of any man? If you are, you may bid farewell to the hope of eminence in this walk. None are mere imitators to whom Nature has given original powers. The ape alone is content with mere imitations. If Nature has bestowed such a portion of the spirit of oratory as can advance you to a high rank in this walk, your manner will be your own. In what style of eloquence you are best fitted to excel, you, yourself, if destined to excellence, are the best judge. I can only tell you that the florid and Asiatic style is not the taste of the age. The strong, and even the rugged and abrupt, are far more successful. Bold propositions, boldly and briefly expressed—pithy sentences—nervous common sense—strong phrases—the felicitous and clear both in language and conception—well compacted periods—sudden and strong masses of light—an apt adage—these are the beauties and ornaments that now make speakers the most interesting. A gentleman and a Christian will conform to the reigning taste so far only as his principle and habits of decorum will permit. The florid and Asiatic was never a good style either for a European or an American taste. We require that a man should speak to the purpose and come to the point—that he should instruct and convince. To do this, his mind must move with great strength and power; reason should be manifestly his master faculty; argument should predominate throughout; but these great points secured, wit and fancy may cast their lights around his path, provided the wit be courteous as well as brilliant, and the fancy chaste and modest. But they must be kept well in the background, or they are dangerous allies; and a man had better be without them, than to show them in front, or show them too often.

But I am wearying you, my dear sir, as well as myself. If these few imperfect hints, on subjects so extended and diversified, can be of any service to you, I shall be gratified. They may, at least, convince you that your letter has interested me in your behalf, and that I shall be happy to hear of your future fame and prosperity. I offer you my respects, and tender the compliments of the season.

WM. WIRT.

From the London Times.

THE WIT AND MISCHIEF OF WOMEN.

Bristol has been the scene of one of the most romantic incidents in real life which ever occurred, and of which a highly respectable merchant of the city has been unfortunately made the dupe.

This affair has been made public in consequence of the gentleman (Mr. Woolley), having been charged before the magistrate, with having conspired to defraud a goldsmith of a lady's gold watch and chain.

We therefore subjoin an accurate account of the facts of this most extraordinary conspiracy, of which a most respectable man has been made the dupe.

Mr. Woolley has been, it appears, for the last five years a widower, and Miss Bryers, who is now about 22 years of age, and whom he has brought up and educated from the early age of eight years, resided with him in New Cut. About six months since, Miss Bryers intimated to him that a lady whom she knew, and whose property was worth £47,000, had accidentally seen him, and had on the instant fell in love with him; that she had striven long to conquer her passion, but in vain; that her declining health bore testimony to the intensity of the struggle; and that, as a last resource, she had communicated her passion to her (Miss Bryers), with a view to her sounding her brother-in-law as to the state of his heart, and with much more sufficiently nonsensical and absurd. Hearing this tale, Mr. Woolley, of course, being most anxious to know who the lady was, pressed Miss Bryers to inform him who the fair immortal might be, and was at length told by her that she was Miss —, a lady of the first family and respectability. Mr. Woolley, who had never seen the lady whose name was mentioned to him, oddly enough agreed to reciprocate the alleged affection, and pressed anxiously for an interview. To this Miss Bryers replied, that such a course was entirely out of the question, for should the relations of the lady arrive at the knowledge that such an acquaintance existed, they would immediately have her removed, her peace of mind would then be ruined forever, and Mr. Woolley's chance of the £17,000 would be destroyed.

To mitigate the rigour of this sentence, however, a tender correspondence was fabricated and carried on in this lady's name, (who was all the while unconscious of even Mr. Woolley's existence) through Miss Bryers, and in answer to one of these tender billets, Mr. Woolley pledged his honor not to seek an interview with this lady until it could be safely granted.—The matter having been mentioned to some confidential friend by Mr. Woolley, it was suggested to him that he ought to be better assured of the truth of the affair, and that it might be a hoax. This insinuation was, however, indignantly met by Mr. Woolley with the reply, "could they suppose that she whom he had brought up as his child from the early age of eight years, whom he had ever treated in the most kind and indulgent manner, would attempt to be a party to the playing off of any trick upon him who might be considered as her father?" His friend still remain-

ing incredulous, Mr. Woolley said he would write a letter to Miss —, which should be taken by Miss Bryers, and that to satisfy himself of her truth, a female, the wife of a person in his employment, should see whether she went to the house where the lady resided with it. This was done, and Miss Bryers was watched by the female to the door of Miss —'s house. Shortly afterwards some circumstances transpired from which he was again led to think, that a trick was being played him, and determined to make assurance doubly sure, he mentioned his suspicions, to Miss Bryers, wrote a letter to Miss —, and pressed her to accompany Miss Bryers to the door of the lady's house, and to wait outside for an answer. Miss Bryers, nothing daunted, reproached him for entertaining the slightest suspicion, and said that she should be most happy to convince him, and that he had better at once write the letter, and they would walk together with it to the house, in which the lady resided. This was accordingly done, and on reaching the house, Miss Bryers knocked at the door, and having ascertained that the lady was at home, sent in her card, (both being personally wholly unknown,) and desired Mr. Woolley to wait for her.—She then with unparalleled effrontery introduced herself to the presence of the lady. Being requested to be seated, she apologized for her intrusion, but that being informed that Miss — was very kind in administering religious consolation to the poor, she had presumed to solicit her to visit a poor woman at a place in Cathay, which she named, to administer some relief to her mind. That the poor woman did not need pecuniary assistance, as she (Miss Bryers) had procured for her every thing which was necessary. The lady replied, that it was true she was ever most happy to contribute to the relief of the suffering poor as far as possible, but that with respect to religious consolation, she thought the clergyman of the parish was the proper party to be applied to. Miss Bryers immediately acknowledged that this was the proper course, and having apologized for troubling Miss —, requested to be allowed to write a note to the Rev. gentleman, soliciting his aid.—This was of course, acceded to, and Miss Bryers sat down to write the note, but instead of writing to the clergyman, she penned an amorous answer to Mr. W's letter, in the name of the lady in whose house and presence she was committing this wanton fraud. Having finished, and used a wafer instead of a seal, she wished the lady good morning and having rejoined Mr. Woolley in the street, she triumphantly produced the note, still wet, told him Miss — was much annoyed at his suspicions, and in fact, completely convinced the too credulous Mr. Woolley that things were progressing rightly for his marriage with his lady. The correspondence continued uninterrupted between the parties, and at length Miss Bryers producing a very handsome ring with the initials of the lady engraved upon it, told him she had sent it with the request that he would wear it for her sake.

Things being in this state, it was arranged on this semi-fictional correspondence, that £20,000 of the lady's property should be settled on herself, while the other portion should be at her husband's disposal. A request was also made that they should exchange watches, and Miss Bryers produced a neat lady's gold watch and chain, which the public reports show that together with the ring, she had procured from Mr. Jones. Mr. Woolley, was of course, delighted, and immediately handed Miss Bryers a very valuable gold watch, &c., which he wore. Mr. Woolley then became most anxious for the lady to name the happy day, but Miss Bryers told him that before he married, as he had been a widower for some time, he ought to re-furnish certain portions of his house in a style befitting the reception of a lady.

At this period this artful young lady, in order to still further blind her too credulous relative to her machinations, requested him to accompany her to make a morning call upon the lady of one of the first merchants at her residence at Clifton, and told him that this lady was most intimate with Miss —, and would no doubt induce her to immediately name the day.

Mr. Woolley, accordingly, accompanied her in the carriage to Clifton to the house of Mrs. —. When they arrived there, Miss Bryers persuaded him not to enter the house, but to remain in the carriage while she went in and spoke to Mrs. — upon the subject, as they should not be able to converse freely in his presence. Miss Bryers then went into the house, and on being introduced to Mrs. —, whom she had not at all known previously, informed her that she had been taken suddenly ill at her door, &c. It is needless to say that the lady, of course, sympathized with her for her illness, and persuaded her to take a glass of wine, which might recover her. The artful girl did so, and took care to spill a portion of the wine on her cambric handkerchief; she then assured the lady of the house that she felt better, and having returned to the carriage, told Mr. Woolley that she was sorry to have detained him so long, but that Mrs. — had promised to go immediately to Miss —, and that she would

make her have a glass of wine, and "bless me," added she, "I declare I have spilt some of the wine over my handkerchief." It any doubts whatever had remained in Mr. Woolley's mind, he must have been more incredulous than the generality of men, if he had any longer entertained the slightest suspicion, and accordingly he procured the license for their marriage in Radcliff church.

Bridal dresses and presents were prepared, bride cake ordered, and every arrangement made for the performance of the ceremony; on the day preceding which, however, a strange series of events took place. In the afternoon of that day, Mr. Woolley sent to the house of the Rev. Marcus D'Arcy Irvine, to request that gentleman to perform the ceremony on the ensuing morning. The Rev. gentleman was, however, gone out to a dinner party, and Mr. Woolley, the anxious bridegroom, sent again and again, at 6 o'clock, at 8 o'clock, and at 10 o'clock at night, before Mr. Irvine returned home, who then stated that he would perform the ceremony in the morning, but that it was a strange time of night to come to a clergyman about such an affair. In the meantime, the confectioner, who had orders to make the bride cake, happening to see one of the brothers of Miss —, the circumstance was mentioned, to the utter astonishment of that gentleman, who immediately communicated the intelligence to his brother and Miss —; and, as was to be expected, finding that their sister had never seen Mr. Woolley nor knew aught of the matter, they determined that a respectable man like Mr. Woolley should not be made the victim of so cruel a hoax. They, in the evening of the same day, went to his house, sent in their card, and desired to speak with him. Mr. Woolley was at home, but, being persuaded by Miss Bryers that they found it out and were only come to stop the marriage, he had himself denied, and would not see them. These gentlemen, however, in the most praiseworthy manner, made another effort to deceive him, and wrote him two notes, desiring to see him at their counting house on business of the utmost importance, at the earliest hour in the morning, and before he went anywhere else. These notes however, together with their call, and the answer of the Rev. Mr. Irvine, only strengthened him in the opinion that their object was to prevent the marriage, and at the persuasion of Miss Bryers he felt convinced that they should be interrupted if they attempted to get married at St. Mary Radcliff Church, and that they had better get married near London. With this view, the sister-in-law was despatched to Miss —, to inform her of this alteration, and make the necessary arrangements. This being done, Miss Bryers in the most artful manner, informed Mr. Woolley the next day that, in consequence of the brother's having found it out, there had been a great disturbance, and that Miss — had left her home, and was then in the house, where she would remain until the day of their starting for London, but that no one must see her except Miss Bryers, not even the servant, as her character would be compromised if it should ever become known that she had been in his (Mr. Woolley's) house before they were married.

In order to favor this deception, Miss Bryers had procured the daughter of a neighbor who was kept up stairs by her, and requested frequently to walk about.—"There," said Miss Bryers, "don't you hear her over head walking about, how agitated she must be, poor thing!" Mr. Woolley pressed very hard to be allowed to see her, but this was still refused, and tender billets were passed by the hand of Miss Bryers up stairs and down, almost every hour; and at length, in compliance with his tender entreaties, the lady above stairs agreed that on his retiring to rest at night, he might shake hands with her, but that he must not attempt to force his way into the room. Accordingly on going to bed at night a hand was put out through the eoor, and tenderly kissed by him, which hand it now turns out was that of his sister-in-law, Miss Bryers. On the fourth morning it was arranged that they should start for London, and the supposed Miss — descended to the carriage thickly veiled, and accompanied by Mr. Woolley, Miss Bryers, and a male friend of Mr. Woolley's. They proceeded to Bath, where they dined at a hotel. Miss Bryers and the lady in one room, and Mr. Woolley and his male friend in another.

The male friend then returned to Bristol, and the other parties proceeded to London, where a license was procured, and after fourteen days had transpired, which by law they were compelled to remain, they married, Miss Bryers officiating as bridesmaid. After the marriage they drove to the country, and visited the Isle of Wight, Southampton, &c., driving every where with four horses, and living in first style to pass away the honeymoon, and on Monday last Mr. Woolley and his bride returned to Bristol.

On the day after their arrival at home, friends had, as is usual, to offer their congratulations. Amongst them was Mr. —, who, on seeing the lady, said "Why, my dear Woolley, I thought you had married Miss — of —, sister to the Messrs. —, African merchants?" "So

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